

for amendments in the Kendriya, Vidyalaya Sangathan (Appointment, Promotion, Seniority etc.) Rules 1971. However, as a matter of abundant precaution, the Board decided that a small group of Board members may reexamine the proposals to ensure that the instructions of DoPT are followed within a period of one month and submit them to the Chairman for approval.

**Empowering of women**

1556. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are making efforts towards empowering women;
- (b) if so, the details of action taken/progress made in this regard;
- (c) whether Government have a time bound programme; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The Government has been formulating various strategies and interventions for the empowerment of women. These include:

- (i) The 73rd and 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional amendments which brought about a definite impact on the participation of women in the democratic institutions at the grass root levels through the Panchayati Raj Institutions and local bodies.
- (ii) There are many schemes of various Ministries/Departments for capacity building and economic empowerment of women. These include the schemes such as Support to Training and Employment Programme (STEP), Setting up of Employment-cum-Income Generation-cum-Production Units (NORAD), Socio Economic Programme (SEP), Rashtriya Mahila Kosh and Swa-shakti which are implemented by the Department of Women and Child Development.
- (iii) The Department of Women and Child Development has taken

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up review of laws concerning women with a view to remove provisions in them which may be discriminatory to women.

(iv) The Government is also observing the year 2001 as the Year of Women's Empowerment throughout the country.

(v) A National Policy for the Empowerment of Women is also on the anvil.

(c) and (d) The empowerment of women is a continuous process and no time limit is fixed for such programmes.

#### **Violence against women and girl child**

1557. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether violence against women and girl child, both domestic and at work, has been increasing;

(b) if so, the details of such incidents during last three years, State-wise;

(c) the steps taken by Government to stop violence against women and girl child; and

(d) the role of National Commission for Women in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) As per the data compiled by the National Crimes Records Bureau (NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs, the incidence of